



UNITED COMMUNITY CORPORATION

Newsletter

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SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The United Community Corporation, its first year of program development and tooling up a matter of record, kicked off its second year with a dramatic membership meeting called to vote on expansion of the Board of Trustees.

After a false start on January 20, when 800 members turned out to vote at Temple B'nai Abraham, only to have a legal technicality force cancellation, a meeting was held on February 17.

Some 550 members appeared on the second go around, roughly seven percent of the total membership of 8000. However, only 4,500 were eligible to vote because of UCC rule requiring membership for three months prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called for the purpose of voting on a series of amendments to the Corporation's bylaws. Among the proposed changes was one to expand the Board of Trustees from its original 53 elected members to 106, including 26 city officials as ex-officio and 27 as Area Board representatives.

The proposal for expansion was defeated following a three-hour discussion that saw speaker after speaker, at a rate of 10 to one, urge defeat of the plan that would "give the city control of the antipoverty program."

Add 27 Area Board Members

In its place the membership voted overwhelmingly in favor of an amendment suggested by Willie Wright, a UCC vice-president, to add the 27 Area Board representatives to the Board and limit official city representation to seven, including the Mayor and six City Councilmen.

In other actions taken, the membership approved a number of administrative changes, and one that would establish a quorum of 25 for regular and special meetings of the UCC Board of Trustees. Prior to the change the bylaws called for a majority of the trustees in office as a quorum.

The UCC Newsletter is a publication of the United Community Corporation, 124 Branford Place, Newark, New Jersey
Hon. Hugh J. Addonizio--Hon. President
Hon. Irvine I. Turner--Hon. Vice-Pres.

Dean C. Willard Heckel--President
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Doelling, Kenneth Gibson (on leave), Rabbi Jonathan S. Prinz, Willie Wright, Timothy Still--Vice-Presidents

Edward A. Kirk Francis Quillan
Secretary Treasurer
Cyril D. Tyson
Executive Director

AREA BOARD REPORT

The addition of 27 Area Board representatives to the UCC Board of Trustees has given the Boards a greater role in the fight against poverty, by acting as springboards for social organization and action and by allowing local residents a part in decision-making and evaluation.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION The Area Boards have organized most of UCC's 8500 membership. They have formed constitutions by which their boards operate, have established committees on housing, youth proposals and projects, health, employment, credit unions, education, community action, publicity, alcoholism and narcotics addiction, and so on. Some boards have organized neighborhood block associations for more selective participation.

SOCIAL ACTION Through the various Area Board committees, communities can plan and develop projects to meet local needs. Area Board III, located in Newark's central ward, proposed a community center for recreation and education facilities for some 5000 residents. Along with regular sports programs, the center would house a grievance clinic, wood shop, arts and crafts room, sewing, typing, cooking space, and an adult lounge. This \$165,000 project has been approved by the UCC trustees. The first three Area Boards have permanent headquarters, serve as centers of information for senior citizens (during Medicare Alert), job placement, and, may serve as offices for legal services, small business development, and other UCC programs. The New Jersey State Employment Service placed a roving job recruiter in these Area Boards and in just three weeks he registered 100 persons.

DECISION-MAKING AND EVALUATION Members of Area Boards serve as active members on the UCC employment, education, community action, and special projects task forces; on the UCC program committee; on the UCC Board of Trustees and executive committee; and on the boards or advisory committees of the Pre-School Council, Queen of Angels Church and Seton Hall University Remedial Reading Project, Blazer Community Employment Training Program, Newark Legal Services Project, Newark Golden Age Plan, Career Oriented Preparation for Employment Project, and many other projects now awaiting funding.

Pre-School Council One Year Old

The week of February 27th was declared "Newark Pre-School Education Week" by Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio, climaxing the first anniversary of the Pre-School Council, a UCC delegate agency providing schooling for some 2200 four-year-olds in 49 centers throughout the city.

MRS. PIERCE ON NATIONAL PANEL

Mrs. Estelle Pierce, UCC's assistant treasurer, vice-president of Newark's Pre-School Council, and chairman of its personnel committee, has added another key post to a very busy schedule.

On January 22 Mrs. Pierce was named to the 28-member National Community Representatives Advisory Council by R. Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Mrs. Pierce, as a Newark resident and one of five from the Northeast region, will meet with council members from all over the country to discuss anti-poverty programs and problems and consult with Mr. Shriver and his staff. Mrs. Pierce is the mother of five girls, ranging in age from 5 to 14, and is a clerk-typist with the Essex County District Court for which she took and passed a civil service examination.

BRIEFLY....

COPE (training with social agencies for in-and-out-of school 16-21 year olds) and Newark Legal Services Project both became operational in March.

The Jewish Vocational Service of Essex County, 32 Green Street, is running COPE.

NLSP is currently operating out of an office at the Rutgers Law School, 180 Plane Street (Room 307), and is looking for staff--attorneys, investigators and secretaries.

UCC's Project ENABLE to be run jointly by the Family Service Bureau of Newark and the Urban League of Essex County is part of a national program to demonstrate that the disadvantaged family can improve economically and socially through the educational process. The project deals with core discussions with parents on child-rearing, family development, and community organization. A request for \$62,000 in Federal money has been approved.

NJ's Community Action Training Institute, an OECD sponsored program for insuring increased community awareness on current issues, as well as solutions to social and economic problems, has on its board a number of Newark residents, all of whom are members of UCC's Area boards.

- AB I--John P. Thompson, Mrs. Emmet Jenkins
- AB II--Willie Wright, Henry Kennedy
- AB III--Terry Jefferson, Therman Smith
- AB IV--Margaret Ewart, Dagoberto Ortiz
- AB V--Pablo Jimenez, Genoveva Ixona
- AB VII--J. Phillip Brunfield, Charles Mabray

STAFF EXPANDS

Focusing on accelerated program development, the United Community Corporation has filled a number of key staff positions over the past three months bringing the total complement to 64--56 or 88 percent reside in Newark; and 60 or 94 percent are residents of Essex County.

Appointments were made at all echelons, including the long-awaited director of education. Dr. J. Thomas Flagg, a veteran of some 20 years in the Newark school system, was named to this post. He is a resident of Newark.

Dr. Flagg was also coordinator of the South Side Project, an action research project that was a fore-

runner to the current antipoverty effort, and later he was the first director of the city-sponsored Neighborhood Youth Corps.

Holder of bachelor's and master's degrees from Montclair State College, and PH.D. from Rutgers University, Dr. Flagg served as a supervisory assistant to science for Newark's junior high schools prior to joining UCC.

In February the antipoverty agency appointed George Mossay, comptroller, to replace Fleming Jones, who returned to his post with the city. Mossay, a resident of Newark and a graduate of Fairleigh-Dickinson University, was comptroller of the First National Credit Corporation of Newark before coming to UCC. From 1957 to 1963 he served as senior accountant with A.M. Hart & Co., a certified public accountant firm, where he prepared tax and government reports and analyses of accounting systems and financial procedures.

Other appointments include:

Francis L. Warren, vocational education administrator--Mr. Warren, another Newark resident, and former director of a job training program for young people sponsored by the Newark Housing Authority, is a graduate of Howard University. He holds a master's degree in vocational counseling from Columbia University. Warren has held posts with New York City's Job Orientation in Neighborhoods and Urban League of Essex County, and the N.J. State Employment Service.

Mrs. R. Neal Owens, remedial-tutorial coordinator--Mrs. Owens, who was named outstanding Citizen of Roseville in 1954, has now held several posts at UCC. Prior to this assignment she served as community organizer for Area Boards VI and VII and later as pre-school coordinator. A graduate of Washington College, Maryland, Mrs. Owens also holds a master's degree in guidance and personnel from New Jersey State Teachers College. She was a teacher in the Essex County Vocational and Technical High School for 29 years. Among other activities, Mrs. Owens was on the Mayor's Committee on Youth and is a board member of the Newark Chapter of American Red Cross and the Roseville YM-YWCA.

Mrs. Agnes E. Parker, pre-school coordinator--Mrs. Parker assisted two previous coordinators, Beas Norman and R. Neal Owens. Her duties include maintaining liaison between UCC and its Area Boards and pre-school projects in the city. Born in Raleigh, N.C., Mrs. Parker received a bachelor's degree there from St. Augustine's College, and attended graduate school at North Carolina College. Before joining UCC, she taught in the Newark school system. Earlier, she worked for the Urban League of Essex County for three years. Mrs. Parker is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Society of Humanities.

BLAZING NEW TRAILS

The Blazer Community Employment Training Program, a unique blend of community action and work experience is expected to be operational at three new, fully equipped locations before April 15. Some 200 welfare clients are training in food service, upholstery, automotive repair and floor maintenance.